

REMARKS

Claims 1-19 and 21 are currently pending in the present application. Claim 20 has been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer thereto. Applicant appreciates the indication that claims 9-14 are allowable and that claims 6-8 and 17-19 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. Accordingly, claims 1-8, 15-19 and 21 are currently under consideration.

Claims 1, 6-8 and 15 have been amended. In particular, claim 1 has been amended to recite the language of claim 6 and to delete the term “thin”; and claim 6 has been amended to recite that the UV radiation used in exposing the lubricant is substantially free of wavelengths less than 200 nm. Claims 7-8 were amended to change their dependency to claim 1. Claim 15 was amended to recite that the radiation is substantially free of wavelengths at 200 nm or less. Based on the nature of these amendments, it is respectfully submitted that no new matter has been added to the application.

Rejection Under 35 USC 112

Claims 1-8 were rejected under 35 USC 112 as being indefinite. In particular, the claims were considered indefinite because of the use of the term “thin” recited in claim 1. Applicant traverses the rejection and respectfully submits that one of ordinary skill in the art would have no difficulty understanding the use of this term in the claims. The term “thin films” and “thin lubricant layers” are ubiquitous in this art and those skilled in this art would have no difficulty understanding the meets and bounds of these terms.

Nevertheless, to expedite prosecution of the application, Applicant has deleted the term “thin” from independent claim 1, thus broadening claims 1-8. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection are respectfully solicited.

Rejection Under 35 USC 103

Claims 1-5, 15 and 16 were rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Furutani (U.S. 6,071,609). The rejection is traversed and it is respectfully submitted that claims 1-5, 15 and 16 are patentable within the meaning of 35 USC 103.

To expedite prosecution of this application, Applicant has amended independent claim 1 to include the subject matter of allowable claim 6. Furutani does not teach or suggest at least this feature of independent claim 1. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection are respectfully solicited.

To further expedite prosecution of this application, Applicant has amended independent claim 15 to recite that the UV radiation is substantially free of wavelengths at 200 nm or less. Furutani does not teach or suggest at least this feature of independent claim 15. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection are respectfully solicited.

Claims 6-8 and 17-19 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim. Applicant respectfully submits that these claims are now in condition for allowance.

Based on the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that the claims pending in the present application are in condition for allowance. Favorable consideration and allowance of the application are respectfully solicited.

10/086,848

To the extent necessary, a petition for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. 1.136 is hereby made. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account 500417 and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,

MCDERMOTT WILL & EMERY LLP

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Daniel Bucca", written in a cursive style.

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Date: September 9, 2004